

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

/135 W

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R 031302Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8473

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: MFA WARNS CHINESE AMBASSADOR ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT

REF: MOSCOW 6400

1. PRAVDA MAY 3 PUBLISHES TASS REPORT OF MFA STATEMENT READ TO PRC AMBASSADOR ON MAY 2 BY DEPFONMIN ILICHEV (NOMINALLY STILL HEAD OF SOVIET BORDER TALKS DELEGATION) ON DETENTION OF HELICOPTER AND CREW IN SINKIANG SINCE MARCH 14. STATEMENT REVIEWS PREVIOUS EXCHANGES ON SUBJECT AND ACCUSES PRC OF USING INCIDENT FOR "FURTHER COMPLICATION SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONS." IT ASSERTS THAT CHINESE DETENTION OF CREW IS CONTRARY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE IN SETTTLING SUCH MATTERS AND SAYS

THEIR FAMILIES AND SOVIET PUBLIC ARE NATURALLY WORRIED ABOUT THEIR FATE.

2. STATEMENT SAYS SOVIET GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON IMMEDIATE RETURN OF ALL THREE CREW MEMBERS AND HELICOPTER. IT WARNS THAT IF CHINESE SIDE INTENDS TO CONTINUE DETAINING CREW, MOCKING SOVIET PEOPLE, IT "THEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A PROVOCATIVE POSITION."

3. COMMENT: AS WE SUGGESTED REFTTEL, SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE REACHING THE END OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC ROPE. WARNING OF "INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES" AND ALLUSION TO SOVIET PUBLIC OPINION (WHOSE INTEREST WHETTED BY APRIL 28 PRAVDA FEATURE ON INCIDENT) HINT AT POSSIBLE SOVIET ESCALATION OF ISSUE TO ANTI-CHINESE DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF POPULAR WRATH, WITH THE ATTENDANT HEIGHTENING OF SINO-SOVIET TENSIONS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, HELICOPTERS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005